

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2844

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016

Potatoes Price

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the prices of Potato is likely to shoot up as much as 50%-65% by April-May, 2016;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to keep the prices of Potato under control during the upcoming months?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): The price of horticultural commodities, including potatoes, may vary according to changes in demand and supply conditions, which depend on crop seasonality, weather conditions, seasonality of demand etc. Data from 2010 to 2015 indicates that in four of the five years (viz. 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014) all India average wholesale price of potatoes increased in the range of 25 to 51 per cent in May as compared to March of the same year. In 2015, the trend was reversed and there was a decrease in prices by 1.2 per cent in May compared to March.

As all India total Rabi potato crop is estimated to fall by 11.3 per cent in 2015-16 compared to 2014-15, prices are likely to increase in the coming months. Reasons for low production include unfavourable weather conditions and late blight disease in some pockets of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c): Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has created a Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) scheme with a corpus of Rs.900 crores during 2016 for providing working capital and other expenses for procurement and distribution of perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities including potato. The objective of this Fund is to control price volatility, thereby protecting the interests of farmers and consumers. Government is considering creating buffer stock of potato during year 2016 keeping in view the price trend of potato.
